(c) by when the country is expected to be self-sufficient in the production of sugar.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Figures of quantum of sugar imported during the last 3 years and the CIF value thereof are as under :—

Financial Year	Quantum of import (L/Tonnes)	CIF value (Rs./ Crores)
1983-84.	Nil	Nil
1984-85.	4·96	113·62
1985-86. (provisional estimate	19·38	430·62

(c) To meet the increased requirement of sugar for internal consumption, measures have already been initiated to encourage sugar production including the payment of remunerative cane prices to the growers by the sugar factories. With the increase in sugar production and larger availability of indigenous sugar, the dependence on imported sugar will get correspondingly reduced.

Cotton destroyed in Maharashtra

2343. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased state:

(a) what is the quantity of cotton destroyed/demaged in Vidarbha area of Maharashtra during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the value thereof; and

(b) the amount of compensation, if any paid by the Central Government to the cotton growers/mill owners during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The quantity of cotton destroyed/ demaged by fire in Vidarbha area of Maharashtra is as under :

(Rs in lakhs)

Season	Quantity	Value
1982-83	11,2801Qtl. Ctn. 12,906 Ctn. Bls.	411.02
1983-84	4,265 Qtn. Ctn. 1388 Ctn. Bls.	79.16
1984-85	9505 Qtl. Ctn. 3091 Ctn. Bls.	115.05

(b) The above cotton was insured and hence the loss thereof has been compensated by the insurance company.

Steps to increase the flow of foreign tourists to India

2344. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the number of foreign tourists expected to visit during the current financial year; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the flow of foreign tourists to India?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHR H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The number of foreign tourists, excluding

the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, who visited India during the last two years were 905,980 in 1983-84 and 801,336 in 1984-85.

(b) The number of foreign tourists expected to visit India during 1985-86 is about 8.6 lakhs.

(c) The steps initiated to increase the inflow of foreign tourists to India include re-orientation of publicity campaigns giving emphasis on consumer advertising, stepping up of public relations with the media overseas, the tour operators and the travel agents abroad, participation in international travel fairs and exhibitions, development of infrastructucal facilities and improvement of transport systems.

Storing of confiscated goods by Customs Department in Bombay

2345. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1326 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th August, 1985 regarding proposals for warehousing accommodation for storing of confiscated goods by Customs Department in Bombay and state:

(a) whether a final decision in the matter has been taken; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, and if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A decision has been taken to hire warehousing accommodation offered by M/s Phonenix Mills Ltd. for storage of confiscated goods of the Customs Department at Bombay.

Boom in diamond industry

2346. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a new boom in diamond industry, if so, whether Government have plans to ensure that the artisans and the Industry are provided sufficient incentives to maintain and improve this situation over the coming years through better tools, training and technology;

(b) what are the details thereof as reported in the 'Economic Times' of 18th February, 1986; and

(c) whether search for diamonds in any areas have been made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) There is no particular boom in the diamond industry. Import of machinery, equipment, tools and implements under OGL with a concessional rate of duty of 25 per cent, apart from training of artisans in different aspects of diamond cutting and polishing, has been facilitated for product diversification and improvement in productivity not only to sustain but also to improve export production of cut and polished diamonds.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Import of sugar from U.K.

2347. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite improved production during 1985-86, Government propose to import large quantities of sugar from U.K.: and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Import of sugar has been restricted to the